

Applicants: Lionel Vedrine
Serial No.: 10/520,981
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for injecting a product, particularly for medical use, which comprises:

a body housing a hollow injection needle and a container containing the injectable product; the needle is connected to the body but able to move relative to the latter between an injection position and a retracted position;

a plunger that slides in the body and is displaceable relative to the latter to perform the injection; said container is closed at one end and is connected to this plunger but is able to move relative to the latter between a position that enables the injection to be performed and a retracted position;

~~means for holding the needle in position, which means normally holds the needle in the injection position and can be released to free the needle to move to said retracted position;~~

~~means for holding the container, which means holds the container in the position that enables the injection to be performed, and can be released to free the container to move to said retracted position;~~

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a piston engaged in the container and so shaped to have a blind hole located adjacent a peripheral portion, wherein, in a first configuration of the piston or relative position of this piston and of this container, it closes the container in such a way as to isolate the product from the environment outside this container and, in a second configuration of the piston or relative position of this piston and of this container, said peripheral portion of said piston is deflected into said blind hole so as to allow the product to pass between said piston and said container and out of the container without said piston being pierced, wherein the piston is spaced from, and not in contiguous contact with, the needle with the piston being in the second configuration or position; and

~~respective means for operating said means of holding the needle in position and said means of holding the container, which, at the end of the injection, release the means of holding the needle in position before, or at the same time as, the means of holding the container are released~~

a flange formed at the opposite end of the container from the closed end of this container; and

at least one tab able to move in the radial direction of the plunger between a radially inward position, in which said flange is connected to the plunger, and a radially outward position, in which said tab is withdrawn radially wide of this flange, thereby releasing it.

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2. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The injection device as claimed in claim 1, which comprises spring means for moving the needle and the container to the retracted position without voluntary external action.

6. (Previously Presented) The injection device as claimed in claim 1, in which said body forms a distal end perpendicular to the axis of the needle, wherein the needle projects, in the injection position, from said distal end to a distance equal to the desired depth of insertion of this needle during the injection.

7. (Currently Amended) The injection device as claimed in ~~one of claims 1–6~~ claim 1, in which ~~said means for holding the needle in position comprise~~ further comprising:

a needle-supporting part comprising at least one secondary flange, said needle being supported by said needle-supporting part ~~locking means~~; and

at least one secondary tab that ~~comprises a locking means able to engage with said secondary flange~~ that of said needle-supporting part, this secondary tab being moveable radially between a normal, radially inward position, in which said secondary tab engages locking means ~~engage with said secondary flange each other~~ to keep said needle-supporting part in position relative to said body, and a radially outward position, in which

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a zone of the plunger moves this said secondary tab radially out to unlock it, thereby freeing said needle-supporting part from said body.

8. (Cancelled)